

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 7 and 8, ADD new claim 11 and AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting pass/fail information indicating whether an examinee has passed or failed an exam to an examinee terminal of the examinee via a network, the method performed by a server, comprising:

transmitting an inquiry ~~mail~~ to the examinee terminal asking whether to require the pass/fail information;

recording a transmission time at which the server transmits the inquiry corresponding to the examinee ID;

receiving a response ~~mail~~ from the examinee terminal responding to the inquiry ~~mail~~;

recording a reception time at which the server receives the response ~~mail~~ corresponding to the examinee ID;

determining, based on a time period from the transmission of the inquiry to the reception of the response corresponding to the examinee ID ~~time~~, a transmission order in which a pass/fail information address in the network at which the pass/fail information is located is transmitted to the examinee terminal;

monitoring a server load of the server; and

transmitting the pass/fail information address to examinee terminals of a predetermined number of examinees including the examinee depending on the determined transmission order and the monitored server load.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: receiving a transmission request for transmitting the pass/fail information transmitted from the examinee terminal, the transmission request based on the pass/fail information address; and

transmitting the pass/fail information in response to the transmission request.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting pass/fail information indicating whether a particular examinee has passed or failed an exam to an examinee terminal of the particular examinee via a network, the method performed by a server, comprising:

receiving a transmission request for transmitting the pass/fail information from the examinee terminal, the transmission request based on a pass/fail information address in the network at which the pass/fail information is located; and

transmitting, in response to reception of the transmission request, examinee ID numbers of a plurality of passing examinees around the particular examinee.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting pass/fail information indicating whether a particular examinee has passed or failed an exam to an examinee terminal of the particular examinee via a network, the method performed by a server, comprising:

transmitting to the examinee terminal an enquiry asking whether the particular examinee wishes to disclose pass/fail information to other examinees;

receiving a response to the transmitted enquiry from the examinee terminal;

forming a group of examinees who wish to disclose their pass/fail information to other examinees, based on profile information of the examinees, the group including the particular examinee; and

transmitting an inquiry to the examinee terminal inquiring whether to require the pass/fail information for the group; and

transmitting pass/fail information of the examinees of the group to the examinee terminal of the particular examinee in response to reception of the transmission request of the pass/fail information for the group.

5. (Currently Amended) A transmitting apparatus transmitting pass/fail information indicating whether an examinee has passed or failed an exam to an examinee terminal of the examinee via a network, comprising:

a transmitting unit that transmits an inquiry mail to the examinee terminal asking whether to require the pass/fail information;

a recording unit that records a transmission time at which the server transmits the inquiry corresponding to the examinee ID;

a receiving unit that receives a response mail from the examinee terminal responding to the inquiry-mail;

a determining unit that records a reception time at which the response mail is received and determines, based on a time period from the transmission of the inquiry to said reception of the response corresponding to the examinee ID-time, a transmission order in which a pass/fail

information address at which the pass/fail information is located is transmitted to the examinee terminal;

a monitoring unit that monitors a load of the transmitting apparatus; and

a transmitting unit that transmits the pass/fail information address to examinee terminals of a predetermined number of examinees including the examinee depending on the determined transmission order by the determination unit and the monitored load.

6. (Previously Presented) The transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the transmitting unit transmits the pass/fail information address to the examinee terminals of the predetermined number of examinees when the load of the transmitting apparatus is less than a predetermined value.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to function as:

a transmitting unit that transmits an inquiry ~~mail~~ to an examinee terminal asking whether to require pass/fail information;

a recording unit that records a transmission time at which the server transmits the inquiry corresponding to the examinee ID;

a receiving unit that receives a response ~~mail~~ from the examinee terminal responding to the inquiry ~~mail~~;

a determining unit that records reception time at which the response ~~mail~~ is received and determines, based on a time period from the transmission of the inquiry to said reception of the response corresponding to the examinee ID-time, a transmission order in which a pass/fail information address at which the pass/fail information is located is transmitted to the examinee terminal;

a monitoring unit that monitors a load of the computer; and

a transmitting unit that transmits the pass/fail information address to examinee terminals of a predetermined number of examinees including an examinee depending on the determined transmission order by the determination unit and the monitored load.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 9, wherein the transmitting unit transmits the pass/fail information address to the examinee terminals of the predetermined number of examinees when the load of the transmitting apparatus is less than a predetermined value.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein if the server load is greater than a predetermined value, the server does not transmit pass/fail information to the examinee terminal until a predetermined period of time has passed.